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NH EBC

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Opening

- It's a pleasure to be here today.
- My career path has led me in many directions but I've always wanted to work for EPA...to be a regulator. I have experience in environmental law and professional organizations, and it's really exciting to be working in Region 1 on some of the environmental issues happening here.
- I am proud to be focusing on EPA's core mission work- protecting our air, water and land.
- We want to improve process and achieve results, all while adhering to the rule of law.
- I am motivated by teamwork and strong partnerships.
- Improvements to protecting human health and the environment cannot be achieved by any actor operating alone.

So, A Few Themes: Partnerships

- Effective environmental protection is best achieved when EPA, its state and tribal partners, and the regulated and NGO community work from a foundation of transparency, collaboration—including public participation—and a spirit of shared accountability for the outcomes of this joint work.

Innovation:

- That's another focus for me. Innovation and creative solutions. It's important to use the appropriate tools in our tool box, and constantly work to expand that tool box. We should be using technology to our favor and improving our own systems to make business processes more streamlined for the regulated community.

Water

- New England is a water region. Five of our six states have coastal shoreline and the sixth state- Vermont- has the 'sixth great lake'- Lake Champlain.
- We have quite a few issues facing our region's iconic waterways.

Nutrients & Stormwater:

- Most of our water systems- like Great Bay- are struggling with excess nutrients causing water quality challenges like algae blooms, diminished fish habitat, and/or cyanobacteria.
- Stormwater is part of the nutrient problem, and another critical water quality challenge.
- On July 1, the MS4 permits in New Hampshire and Massachusetts went into effect. These permits are one of our most effective tools to improve water quality, by modernizing stormwater management. We've learned a lot since the last stormwater permits were issued in 2003, and these permits reflect those advances.
- While these permits are currently being appealed, EPA has asked the federal Court of Appeals to employ a court mediator and EPA is working hard to see if a settlement can be negotiated among the parties.
- EPA has worked very hard with local and state officials to develop permits that reflect a practical, common-sense approach to protect and restore waterways.
- With the states, we have conducted extensive training and outreach to help municipalities get ready for the new permit and to provide flexibility in local management practices and while maintaining the highest water quality.
- We have developed an array of training and implementation tools to assist municipalities with implementation.

- Topics have included permit overview presentations, Notice of Intent preparations, town meeting attendance and GPS training.
- We have produced a stormwater management plan template, illicit discharge procedures templates, and examples of ordinances.
- New Hampshire has a great local resource in the UNH stormwater center, which has been a valuable partner to EPA and the state in advancing the state of the art in stormwater management.
- We are excited to take this next step towards improved water quality in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Great Bay

- We're working very closely with NH DES to continue progress in Great Bay.
- One of our top priorities is to issue the next round of permits to municipal wastewater facilities. We are committed to engage the public and the municipalities as we move forward, and to be transparent in our analysis of the science.
- We know that communities are concerned about the cost of wastewater treatment. At the same time, we need to resolve the water quality issues in Great Bay.
- We are encouraged by the progress that many communities are making. Some have already reduced nitrogen by 70-80%. As we move forward, we will be looking for practical approaches with a strong scientific basis.

Infrastructure & Resilience

- New England is one of the oldest regions in the country, and in many cases our infrastructure reflects its age.
- One of our biggest infrastructure challenges is flooding from large storms – sometimes combined with storm surges at the coast.
- Over the past 50 years, we have seen a 71% increase in extreme weather events, which can often overwhelm our infrastructure and flood key.
- We must understand infrastructure vulnerabilities and adapt.

Lead Strategy

- It's hard to talk infrastructure without talking lead.
- In Region 1 we are working very closely with our state partners to get the lead out.
- That means we are working very closely with our state counterparts to get the lead out of water service lines.
- We are also working with communities and states on our Lead Remediation and Repair Rule efforts.
- Just to illustrate some of the great work going on:
- For the last few years EPA had been conducting geographic initiatives for the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule.
- Exposure to lead paint is a big deal for children's health, and we have found these geographic initiatives to be helpful to make a difference in that

community. We have begun our fourth geographic initiative in the NH/ME Seacoast.

- The cities of Portsmouth, NH and Portland, ME have some of the oldest housing stock in the US, and both areas are experiencing rather large population growth- Portland was recently named the second highest population gains in New England and Portsmouth is one of the 10 fastest growing cities in New Hampshire.
- With this kind of growth, comes renovation, and risk of exposure to lead paint.
- The goal of this initiative is to reduce lead exposure through increased awareness and improved compliance with the Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule under TSCA.
- We have been coordinating with local and state officials on this effort. We have already held stakeholder meetings, and begun to distribute educational materials.
- This summer we plan to conduct about 40 compliance inspections.
- HQ is working on an Agency **Lead Strategy**, and part of that lead strategy includes regions coming up with their own.
- We are working on our draft strategy now. It is really looking great.
- It brings together all of the work we are doing on lead into one place and helps emphasize the great progress we are making. I can't wait to share it with you

Emerging Contaminants

- Emerging Contaminants is the final water issue I'll leave you with today, because it's an issue that transcends all the New England states. It's one we are very focused on right now.
- Lately, we have seen a lot of action with Perfluorinated Chemicals or (PFASs) in water.
- In late June, we hosted a PFAS Community Engagement event in Exeter, NH to help inform our draft management plan and to hear from the public about their experiences with PFAS.
- *The Agency will continue to hold community engagement events around the country while we are drafting the National PFAS Management Plan.*
- *EPA PFAS Action Items:*
 - *EPA will initiate steps to evaluate the need for a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. We will convene our federal partners and examine everything we know about PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.*
 - *EPA is beginning the necessary steps to propose designating PFOA and PFOS as "hazardous substances" through one of the available statutory mechanisms, including potentially CERCLA Section 102.*
 - *EPA is currently developing groundwater cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS at contaminated sites and will complete this task by fall of this year.*
 - *EPA is taking action in close collaboration with our federal and state partners to develop toxicity values for GenX and PFBS.*

Superfund Task Force & Contaminated Sites

- This brings me to one of the cornerstones of our mission to protect human health and the environment...the Superfund program.

- The Agency is focused on speeding up the cleanup of toxic Superfund sites and opening doors for redevelopment opportunities at sites- and has created a Superfund Task Force focused on these goals and helping us to prioritize next steps.
- Currently, Region 1 has 123 sites listed on the National Priorities List and a number of acutely hazardous sites that present a more immediate hazard that EPA addresses on an as needed basis.
- The Administrator's Superfund Task Force has recently come out with lists of priority superfund sites.
- The Mohawk Tannery site in Nashua, NH is on the Administrator's special emphasis list and we are working towards next steps with cleanup there.
- We are currently collecting public on our proposal to allow the encapsulation and impermeable capping of contaminated sludge and soils at the.
- Contaminated sludge and soils require encapsulation and impermeable capping to prevent to the extent practicable, unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.

EJ & Community Engagement

- I'd like to emphasize the important role of communities here- improving environmental health in communities is our bread and butter- that includes environmental justice communities.
- One of the priorities I am bringing to EPA is an emphasis on reducing disproportionate impacts to environmental justice communities and overall community engagement.

- Strong community engagement work is the best way to ensure public participation and true partnership- and I intend to make sure that happens for all of the important work we do to ensure clean air, water and land.

Closing

- We have a lot of work to do, and I am so excited to be at the helm of EPA Region 1.
- We have a fantastic team to tackle some of the tough challenges we face.
- Thank you for having me today.
- I'd be happy to take some questions.